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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/026,737

12/27/2001

Sammy J. Graham

8350.1653-00

1968

7590

02/28/2006

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, ANNETTE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/026,737

Applicant(s)

GRAHAM ET AL.

Examiner

A. M. Thompson

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 19-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2001 and 27 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 9, 2005 has been entered.

1. Applicants' Amendment to 10/026,737 has been examined. Upon review and reconsideration, it is deemed sufficiently persuasive to obviate the outstanding rejections under 35 USC 112. However, the pertinent rejections from the previous office action are incorporated herein.

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 19, 21, and 23-27 are amended. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Rejection of claims 1-9 and 27

4. Claims 1-9 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pannala et al. (Pannala), U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0079197. Pannala discloses a method and apparatus to generate a wiring harness layout.

5. Pursuant to claim 1, Pannala discloses [a] method of designing a system including an element wherein the element connects a plurality of components (§§ 0004 – 0006)), the method comprising establishing a system design including the plurality of components (§ 21); generating a diagram associated with the system design (§§ 21, 22), wherein the diagram indicates connections of the plurality of components in the system; establishing guidelines for designing the routing element (§§ 0022, 0026-29), the guidelines including information reflecting recommendations for designing the routing element; (§§ 18, 22, 26); and designing the routing element based on the diagram and the guidelines (§§ 0021-0027, see especially § 0027).

6. Pursuant to claim 2, wherein the routing element includes one or more connecting elements (§0018), and wherein designing the routing element includes: determining one or more sets of one or more connecting elements that can be bundled (§ 0019); and determining a layout for each bundle within the routing element (§ 0020).

7. Pursuant to claim 3, further including receiving one or more revised guidelines for designating the routing element and determining a revised design for the routing element based on the diagram and the revised guidelines (§ 0038).

8. Pursuant to claim 4, further including providing a drawing illustrating the system and a design for the routing element (§§ 0018, 0021, 0022).

9. Pursuant to claim 5, wherein establishing guidelines includes accessing guidelines associated with the system design (§§ 0027-0029).
10. Pursuant to claim 6, wherein establishing guidelines includes accessing guidelines associated with the plurality of components or the routing element (§§ 0027-0029).
11. Pursuant to claim 7, further including automatically providing information about the system design (§ 0039).
12. Pursuant to claim 8, wherein automatically providing information includes the step of providing at least one of: a three dimensional drawing of the structure; a two dimensional drawing of the structure; a list of components; and a bill of material associated with at least one of the system, the element, and the components (§ 0021).
13. Pursuant to claim 9, wherein the element includes a harness (§§ 0004, 0006, 0030).
14. Pursuant to claim 27, which recites [a] method for designing a routing element that connects a plurality of components in a system (§§ 0004 – 0006)), the method comprising establishing a list of components and connections among the components (§ 21); generating a diagram associated with the system design (§§ 21, 22), the diagram illustrating the components and the connections; establishing guidelines for designing the routing element (§§ 0022, 0026-29), the guidelines including information reflecting a geometry of the system (§§ 18, 22, 26); and designing the routing element based on the diagram and the guidelines (§§ 0021-0027, see especially § 0027).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Rejection of claim 24

16. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Pannala et al. (Pannala), U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0079197. Pannala discloses a method and apparatus to generate a wiring harness layout including establishing guidelines for designing the system. However, Pannala does not explicitly disclose prompting a user to answer one or more questions in establishing the guidelines. Nevertheless, Pannala's use of a user interface with input and output devices suggests the possibility of a system prompt and a user response or entry as could only be accomplished through the use of a terminal. Further, Pannala discloses that it may be possible to select the layout dimension for the wiring harness. One way to accomplish this would be by user input. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention that establishing guidelines may be created through system prompt/ user input because this would be one possible way to input information and the use of questions would be one way to make a decision between two possible implementations.

17. Pursuant to claim 24, wherein establishing guidelines for designing the system includes prompting a user to answer one or more questions (¶¶ 0041-0043).

Allowable Subject Matter

18. Claims 10-18 are allowed.
19. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Pannala does not disclose *establishing guidelines that includes routing recommendations*.

Response to Remarks

20. Pannala discloses "establishing guidelines for designing the routing element." The guidelines constitute predefined symbols (§ 0023) and connection strength information techniques (§§ 0020, 0022).

Conclusion

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Examiner A.M. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1909. The Examiner can usually be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

22. Responses to this action should be mailed to the appropriate mail stop:

Mail Stop _____

Commissioner for Patents

Application/Control Number: 10/026,737
Art Unit: 2825

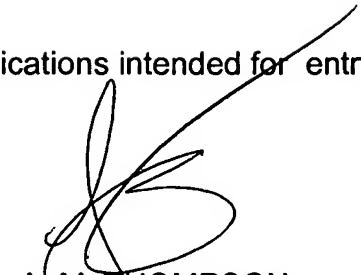
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or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for all **OFFICIAL** communications intended for entry)



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